

# COURTHOUSE MUSEUM



## CHANGE IN THE SPIRIT OF THE LAND

**STOP 1:** Native Americans were California's first people. Those who lived in the area of Shasta were called Wintu. They believed they were a part of the land and lived in balance with nature. The Wintu collected seeds and acorns and hunted deer and rabbits and caught salmon and grasshoppers for food. They skillfully used what nature offered.

Examples of how they lived and their artistry are on display in this exhibit:

Look at these beautifully designed baskets. What were they used for?

*Food gathering, storage, gift giving*

Notice the rocks called mortars and pestles. What were they used for?

*Grinding acorns and seeds for food preparation*

Do you see a picture of a bark building? What was it for?

*Shelter, living inside*



## WHY THE WORLD RUSHED TO SHASTA

**STOP 2:** The man's picture you see on the wall is Pierson B. Reading. He was the first white settler in this area. He came here looking for land and found GOLD! Many miners followed him into this area. They found large amounts of the precious yellow metal. Though the gold was plentiful, there wasn't much to spend it on.



In 1850 an ounce of gold was worth about 12 dollars.

What do you think a miner could buy with an ounce of gold in 1850? Open the top drawer of the display to see the answer!

*Two pounds of flour and a handful of nails*

In the year 2000 an ounce of gold was worth 300 dollars. Open the lower drawer to see what 300 dollars could purchase in the year 2000.

Miners in the 1850's might have decided to spend their gold to stay in one of the seven hotels located in Shasta. Look at the display showing the Empire Hotel.

What do the objects like the chamber pot and the handgun say about staying in a hotel in 1850?

*No running water or bathrooms inside the hotel. The gun can be interpreted in many different ways—protection, criminal activity.*

## BIG TIMES IN THE QUEEN CITY

**STOP 3:** Shasta was known as the “Queen City of the North” because of its large population and long row of brick buildings housing many different stores. People came from all over the county to do their shopping in Shasta. There are many differences between Shasta City then and large cities now.

Looking in these displays, what are some differences you see?  
*Cash box instead of cash register, small clothing, medicine bottles (almost everything is different!)*



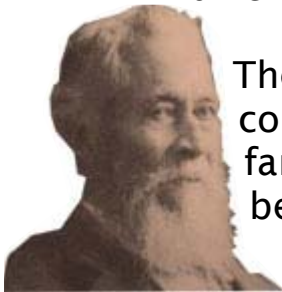
People also came to Shasta for their entertainment.

Read the plaque about “Good Times in Shasta”. What types of entertainment did 1850’s Shasta residents enjoy that we still have today?

*Baseball, dancing, seeing a play, reading a book, bowling, billiards (pool), horse racing*

## HALLWAY—FACES IN THE CROWD

**STOP 4:** The pictures on the walls in this area show the many different people who called Shasta home. The pioneers who came here were a diverse group of people.



There are some unusual objects on display in this area. People coming to Shasta from different places brought objects familiar to them, but some look different from what you might be used to using.

Who can find a Chinese pillow?

*Small bamboo table-like object in the case with the Chinese objects (number 11)*

Where is the early calculator?

*An abacus is on display next to the case of Chinese objects*

Does anyone see the reward Wells Fargo gave for catching a stage coach robber?

*The rifle*

## FIRST ART GALLERY ROOM—ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT

**STOP 5:** Looking around, you can see common kinds of arts and entertainment for settlers in Shasta. In this room there are two very early types of stereo systems, a slot machine, examples of toys, paintings and books. If you suddenly found yourself in the 1850's, which object would you most likely go to for entertainment?

Do any of the historical objects in this room use electricity?

No

Look around the room and stand by the object you'd pick for your entertainment.



## SECOND ART GALLERY ROOM

**STOP 6:** Looking around the walls of this room you see many different types of paintings.

Go and stand by a painting with a mountain, or a tree, or lots of sky showing. There are many different paintings to choose from!

*The style of painting you are standing by is called a landscape. A painting with an outdoor theme, usually without people, can be classified as a landscape.*



Now find a painting that has just one person in it.

*This type of painting is called a portrait. It is a detailed painting which captures how one person looks.*

Finally, find a painting with a vase of flowers or some other non-living subject.

*Paintings where the artist has arranged a group of "still" objects as the subject is called a still-life.*

Now go back into the Arts and Entertainment room.

Can you find examples of landscapes, portraits and still-lives?

## HALLWAY—TRANSPORTATION MURAL

**STOP 7:** As you are beginning to see, life in the 1850's was quite different from today. Another big difference was how people traveled. Today you can travel by car, plane, skateboard or rollerblades. People didn't have those choices in the 19th century.

Using the Transportation Mural as your guide, point out different

ways people traveled in the 1800's.

*Horses, boats, stagecoaches, wagons, stream trains, walking*

Today the trip between Weaverville and Redding takes about an hour by car. Use the 1882 stagecoach schedule to figure out how long the same trip took in 1882.

*Seven hours by stagecoach in 1882*



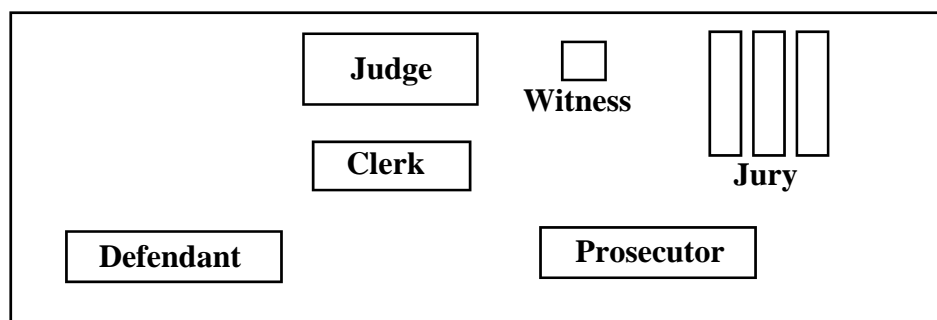
### COURTROOM

**STOP 8:** This courtroom has been restored to look as it did 150 years ago, when it was busy with trials, weddings and hearings. Many of the things used in this display are originals—meaning they were actually used in this room back when this was the Shasta County courthouse.

Can you point out which of the objects you think are originals?

*Roll top desk, pitchers and drinking glasses, flag, spittoons, judge's desk lamps, clerk's desk, prosecution and defense tables, wood stove, large tax ledger books on tables, and the law books on the bookshelves.*

A courtroom has "assigned seating" during a trial. Where would each of these people sit: Judge, Jury, Defendant, Witness, County Clerk, Prosecutor?



### JAIL

**STOP 9:** After carefully walking down the 13 unlucky steps, explore the jail! Use the back door to access the stairs in the rear of the building which take you to the next stop.

### GALLOWS

**STOP 10:** This gallows was the last stop for Shasta's worst criminals. The worst punishment issued by the court was to be "hanged by the neck until dead". Three men were sentenced to hang at this courthouse. All were convicted

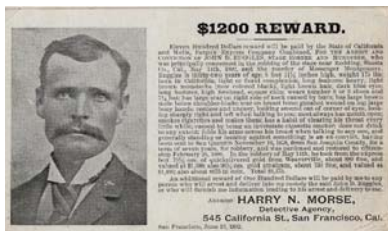



murderers, and they received the ultimate punishment for their crimes. The gallows were rebuilt on this site for each hanging and then dismantled, as residents felt the gallows were gruesome looking when not needed.

**SHERIFF'S OFFICE**

**STOP 11:** This was the sheriff's office. One of the most famous stories concerning Shasta area criminals is on display in this room. Everyone can have a seat on the floor in front of the safe and I'll tell you this story:

## The Ruggles Brothers Stage Robbery





**\$1200 REWARD.**

Wanted by the San Francisco Police Department for the purpose of being paid a reward of \$1200 for information leading to the apprehension of John and Charles Ruggles, who are wanted for the robbery of a stagecoach on the 10th of May, 1891, near the city of San Francisco. The reward will be paid to anyone who can furnish reliable information leading to the apprehension of either or both of the above named persons. The reward will also be paid to anyone who can furnish reliable information leading to the apprehension of either or both of the above named persons, if they have been taken into custody since the date of the robbery. The reward will be paid to anyone who can furnish reliable information leading to the apprehension of either or both of the above named persons, if they have been taken into custody since the date of the robbery. The reward will be paid to anyone who can furnish reliable information leading to the apprehension of either or both of the above named persons, if they have been taken into custody since the date of the robbery.

HARRY N. MORSE,  
Detective Agency,  
545 California St., San Francisco, Cal.  
Per. Francisco, June 15, 1891.

**During their last robbery, the Ruggles used the handgun in the display case to murder Buck Montgomery, the Wells Fargo messenger, who was aboard the stagecoach protecting the strongbox. Charles Ruggles was wounded in the gun fight, and was captured the morning after the robbery. His brother managed to escape with the loot and travel down to Woodland. But six weeks later, John Ruggles was captured and put in jail with his brother.**

**Buck Montgomery, the man killed during the robbery, was very well liked in the town of Shasta. The townspeople were very upset with his murder. Many people felt the trial was taking too long. An angry mob formed and a group of men stormed into the jail. The mob blew up the jail's safe (*now located in front of the display*), then pried open the back to get the key to the Ruggles brothers' cell. The brothers were**